When comparing the number of children in different age-intervals, it is obvious that in New Saranan the number (227) of children in the age-groups 1-5 and 6-10, is 100 less than in Mohammed Kheil (327). It should be considered that people in New Saranan have lived a shorter time in Pakistan, have travelled for months and therefor experienced a higher mortality. It is also known that people who shifted to New Saranan had very difficult conditions before that in Tratra, where they lived as unregistered refugees, and many children died.
Recent preliminary results of a nutrition/mortality survey in Baluchistan (March/April 1990) show an Infant Mortality Rate of 82.5/1000 live births (46.3 - 118.6) and Neonatal Mortality Rate of 25.4/1000 live births (10.5 - 40.2). These mortality levels are less than those of Afghanistan (171) and Pakistan (108) - State of the World's Children - 1988 figures.

Most of the husbands of the refugee-women in Afghanistan were landlords, farmers or were dealing with cattle as shepherds or salesmen. In Pakistan, most of the husbands are daily workers either in the area close to the camp, in Quetta, or in other parts of Pakistan. The number of unemployed have more than trebled in Pakistan (20%) comparing with Afghanistan (6 %) A number of husbands are not working in Pakistan because of their age but in these families often grown up sons are working.

The women often expressed that in Pakistan their families have a better income than they had in Afghanistan. They worried for less possibilities for male to work in Afghanistan and they also worried having no cattle or land after an eventual return to Afghanistan. The awareness about economic conditions seems to have an important influence on the women's wish to return.

8.2. CHANGES IN FEMALE EXPERIENCES AND ATTITUDES CONCERNING COMING TO CAMP IN PAKISTAN:

Almost all women stated that coming to Pakistan changed their situation for the better or much better. One out of ten women consider their situation to have remained the same. More than two out of ten women reported that their situation after coming to Pakistan had become worse or much worse.

It should be considered that some of the interviewed women were children in Afghanistan.

It was possible for the women to give more than one answer.

When the women were asked to explain these changes the following answers were given:

Coming to Pakistan meant to live under peaceful conditions with safety and security for the women and their families. Seven out of ten women gave this answer.
On the other hand, the women who considered their coming to Pakistan in a negative way have reported the loss of their motherland, relatives, houses, cattle and their way of living in Afghanistan.

Sometimes the women mentioned both positive and negative changes. Still they had an impression their lives had changed in a better or worse way.

"We lost everything for saving our lives." Refugee woman.

8.3. WORK-LOAD:

Nearly two out of three women stated that they have a lower work-load in the camp as compared to that in Afghanistan. The women who reported a lower work-load often lived as nomads, who now are found in New Saranan. The main tasks for women in Afghanistan as well as in Pakistan are to take care of their family and children and do household-work. One change is that embroidery-work, gilim-(flat-weave carpet} and carpet-making are done as income generation. Women are also taking less care of cattle compared with what they used to do in Afghanistan.

8.4. HOW RAISING CHILDREN HAS CHANGED:

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES:

Almost all women appreciate school and/or madrassa (religious Islamic school) available in the camp. Seven out of ten women considered the education situation for children in the camp as better or much better than the education situation before in Afghanistan.

In Mohammed Kheil 59 % positively reported that school was available while 40 % positively reported about the possibility to send children to the madrassa. In New Saranan 63 % appreciated that school was available and 33 % reported their appreciation of having religious education for the children. Some women might have meant the same when they talked about school and madrassa.

The religious education classes apparently were frequently attended by the children. In Mohammed Kheil some women mentioned that they even send their daughters to the madrassa, while no girl was attending ordinary education neither in Mohammed Kheil nor in New Saranan.

According to the survey team the women found school very important. The women having children of school age send their sons to school and the madrassa and sometimes the women even expressed a wish to send their daughters to school and madrassa.

Many women explained that there had been no possibilities for school in Afghanistan and some women reported that they had heard that schools now were destroyed in Afghanistan. School for children was for most of the women a new positive experience of what a society can offer. When the women talked about an eventual future in Afghanistan school was a common condition for going back.

"Our Children's future depends on good schooling and education."
Refugee woman

HEALTH FACILITIES:

The women came from areas with very few health facilities. More than half of the women appreciate the BHU and the possibility to go to hospitals when necessary. Vaccination for women and children is considered positive, even if some women hesitate because some children get sick after vaccination. Eight percent of the women were negative about the BHU, complaining about limitation in drug availability but the complains did not always seem to be based on an understanding of their health problems. It was also reported that some staff in the BHU ask for payment from refugees.

"The BHU is not good. It gives no help. We have to go to private doctors." Refugee woman

"In Afghanistan my children died. Here we have a BHU and vaccination"
Refugee woman

NUTRITION SITUATION:

In New Saranan, half of the women and in Mohammed Kheil, one out of four, considered that the nutrition situation for children was worse or much worse compared with Afghanistan. Overall, one out of four women stated that the nutrition was better in the camp than in Afghanistan.

The women mainly based their opinion on how they estimated the amount of food available as well as the variability of food.

Comparing with New Saranan, probably it is easier for refugees in Mohammed Kheil to get supplementary food to the ration. People have been there for a longer time and extended families are more common where often more than one male have an income.

"We have very little food. No decision for dry bread."
Refugee woman

Even if many women considered the nutrition situation for children worse in the camp compared with before in Afghanistan a recently conducted nutrition/mortality survey (March/April 1990) shows that there is no malnutrition among the refugee children.

SOCIAL LIFE:

Children's social life was expressed in terms of their emotional depletion, their school situation, the security in the area which allows the children to play outside and move around visiting relatives and friends. Also the environment in the camp was sometimes compared with that of their previous life in Afghanistan.

Almost three out of four women said that the social situation for children was better or much better in the camp in Pakistan compared with Afghanistan. One out of five considered the situation worse or much worse. Many women mentioned that children are happy here; they

can play outside the houses without any risk for bombardments. Children go to school and play. In Afghanistan they always worked. Some women have mentioned that before the revolution, life was very good for children in Afghanistan.

Some women consider the environment in camp as worse than in Afghanistan. Car accidents had occurred in the camp and the surroundings in Pakistan are poorer, consisting of dry, stony areas while children in Afghanistan could play in the fields and orchards.

THE SITUATION FOR CHILDREN BACK IN AFGHANISTAN:

Here the women have answered mainly in two ways. A majority have mentioned facilities they consider necessary for raising children when the families go back to Afghanistan. The women in the camp were now used to facilities for children as school; madrassa, BHU, and hospitals. The women reported that all these facilities also will be necessary when they are back in Afghanistan. Negative expectations did also occur as: "Everything will be worse back in Afghanistan," "Nothing for poor people and their children. "The women, who gave no answer or gave the answer: "cannot say anything," were two out of five.

"To go back to Afghanistan means to kill our children,"

Refugee woman.

8.5. POSSIBILITIES TO MOVE AROUND:

Every Afghan family is affected by purdah, the social system, that keeps women out of public view as the carrier of the family's honour. The degree to which a woman is observing purdah is dependent on her husband. The extent of purdah is often decided according to the economic situation of the family.

In the interviews the women were asked about their possibilities to move around. Three out or four stated that they could move around in the same way or easier than in Afghanistan. Almost a quater mentioned that in Afghanistan they had too much to do or had to little money to go anywhere. Four out of five women could go and visit relatives in Afghanistan while almost all can do it in the camp. A majority of the women are allowed to visit the BHU and many can also go to Quetta hospital if necessary. Some women found it easier to move around in the camp because their men were away. Ten percent of the women said they could move everywhere in the camp.

Nomadic people seem to find more limitations in moving around.

The women also talked about internal limitations, having a feeling inside, that it is not good for a women to move around in a refugee village. Some women also expressed that there is no green area to visit, only sandy and stony areas.

8.6. FOOD IN THE CAMP COMPARED WITH AFGHANISTAN:

In Mohammed Kheil about one in five and in New Saranan three in five considered the food situation worse in the camp compared to the situation before in Afghanistan. In Mohammed Kheil about two in five and in New Saranan one in ten stated the food situation in the camp as better.

The women's opinion regarding food, depends on when the women left Afghanistan. As reported above, most of the women in Mohammed Kheil have been outside Afghanistan five or more years, while the women from New Saranan came within the last three years and are less settled. Their opinion regarding food also depends on from which area they came. This is especially obvious when the women in New Saranan talk about the meat they are missing. Different economic standard of the families should also be considered.

The majority got food from their land, orchards and cattle in Afghanistan. Furthermore, they bought additional food from the bazaars.

Having no land and no or a few animals the families are now depending on rations and supplementary food bought from the market by the male. Poor people depend on relatives and neighbours, or have to beg.

In Afghanistan it was common that people ate meat daily. Many women said they missed the meat, fresh meat as well as dried. In Pakistan, people often have meat only once or twice a month. Milk, butter and fruit were more available in Afghanistan, while people seem to consume more vegetables here beside bread. Some women had started to eat potatoes here.

Four out of ten women decided together with their husbands what kind of food their family should eat. Less than 15 % of the women stated that they themselves decided, while for others, decision makers were mother-in-law, father-in-law, or other men.

The women seldom had positive expectations regarding the expected food after returning to Afghanistan. More than two out of ten women gave no answer or said, "I do not know." Most of the women expressed in different ways their fear about the food situation after going back in Afghanistan.

8.7. CHANGES IN HEALTH:

More than eight of ten women considered their family's health in terms of lack of illness as the same, better or much better in Pakistan when comparing it with the situation in Afghanistan.

Many women explained that their families in the beginning got very sick. They were not used to the climate and they had no shelter. After settling down, their health has been better. In New Saranan, one out of five women stated that the health situation was worse.

Specific answers regarding health have been few and that might be an evidence for better health now. Sometimes fever, cough and diarrhoea were said to be more common here compared with Afghanistan. The treatment of TB patients is often appreciated. People, seriously sick from TB, became much better after treatment in Pakistan.

Even if the women consider their own health and their family's health better in Pakistan, some of them have talked about psychological problems. The women have less to do. They are longing for their home-country and their relatives.

"People are not real sick, still they look grey." Refugee woman.

8.8. RELIEF ASSISTANCE:

Almost all women, who had been for long time in the camp, stated that relief was good in the beginning, with different kind of assistance. During the last months, only wheat and sometimes kerosene had been distributed. The women found the previous assistance good and the present one better than nothing. The poorest people had severe problems due to the ration cut.

In Mohammed Kheil, 29 women reported that they had bought a ration card for between 400 to 3,000 Rupees. In New Saranan, three persons reported that they had bought ration cards. Only one of the interviewed women had no ration card.

Half of the women appreciated the vaccinations and the different sort of training courses, as community health worker's training and sewing and embroidery courses were considered important.

In New Saranan the latrines, given as assistance, in the women's own compound were highly appreciated. Furthermore, special assistance at Eid from Saudi Arabia was mentioned.

8.9. PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE CAMP:

As many as three out of four women stated that there were no special problem in their camp. The problems mentioned were the ration problem, the corruption problem and the water problem. The women also said that men have many problems in general.

In a corresponding way, the women found it difficult to say how they tried to solve problems in their community. It was mentioned that it was up to the group leader or the men to solve problems, and some women said that women cannot solve problems.

It was unexpected and surprising that three quarters of the women did not express any particular problem in the camp. The high rate of women expressing "no problem" might be seen in the light of their terrible experiences from the war in Afghanistan, their escape from their home country, the insecurity in Afghanistan for the time being, not to forget the fact that they are guests in Pakistan and therefore unwilling to complain and thus appear ungrateful.

8.10. RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL FAMILIES:

In seven out of ten families the males work with Pakistani people. Almost two out of ten families have friendship relationships with Pakistani families. A few families had also established family relationships with local families. A majority of the women considered these contacts helping their families' problems much or very much. Almost a quarter of the families have no relationship with local people, and two out of ten women gave no answer whether relationship with them help their families problems or not.

Most of the women have no relationship themselves with local people but they have heard about them through their husbands or grown up sons. Many women expressed their gratitude to the Pakistani people for helping them giving them a place to stay. Furthermore, the women appreciate their husbands' employment with Pakistanis, which gives their families a better economic situation.

"Pakistani people are nice people, pay well for work, gave us a place to stay."
Refugee woman.

8.11. PRIORITIES FOR GOING BACK TO AFGHANISTAN:

The women have heard from their men that everything is destroyed in Afghanistan. Many women talked about their own memories from Afghanistan that there are no houses and no food and shortness of water. Furthermore, the women in general are very pessimistic about the future and about a peaceful situation in Afghanistan.

"How could we believe it will be peace in Afghanistan,"
Refugee woman.

Even if there is peace, several women said, they will not rush to go back. They will wait and be sure that peace will remain and fighting not start again.

Almost all women are talking about basic needs as their conditions for going back. They stated they need help with food, house, household things, water and medicine. About one in ten meant that if there is peace they will manage on their own.

"God gave us arms, hands and eyes; we should use them,"
Refugee woman

8.12. PREPARING FOR RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN:

Less than one out of ten of the women are actively preparing their return to Afghanistan, mostly by collecting household things for going back. Anecdotally, more women meant they were preparing themselves for going back but they could not say in which way. During current circumstances, going back is not something to think about.

The main reason was the lack of peace inside Afghanistan. Other reasons were good living conditions in Pakistan and no wish from themselves, their husbands or sons for going back. More than one tenth of the women stated they were too poor to afford to go to Afghanistan. Another ten percent gave no answer.

"Cannot think about the future - We have to survive every day,"
Refugee woman.

8.13. WHEN WILL THEY GO BACK?

No women could give information when their families would be going back. The most positive answers were provided by six women in New Saranan saying: "Maybe after one year." A big majority answered: "I don't know" or "Our men have not said anything."

"I do not know when we are going back to Afghanistan. We do not understand. Men understand these affairs and I never interfere,"
Refugee women.

8.14. PROBLEMS THE WOMEN EXPECT THEY WILL FACE DURING TRAVELLING BACK TO AFGHANISTAN

The women expected problems mainly with transportation, with their health and with lack of food and water.

One out of three women mentioned there will be severe problems regarding transportation back to Afghanistan and they reported that help with transportation is necessary. The women want to go back with an arranged transport, e.g. NLC (National Logistic Cell) cars, because they then will feel more security. Women from Mohammed Kheil, where most people are from areas closer to the border, responded in the same way as women from other areas.

Around one in five expressed that they were afraid that people will get seriously ill and many expected the same experiences as during the flight to Pakistan when many people died and many children were born on the way.

Expectations of lack of food and water as well as weather problems and mines scared the women. For a shorter period of travelling (e.g. some days), many women said they will prepare food for their family.

About a quarter stated there will be no problem if the Pakistani Government helps them during their return back.

"Afghanistan is far away - I will pray to God that we arrive with honour and security,"
Refugee woman.

8.15. BIGGEST PROBLEM EXPECTED BACK IN AFGHANISTAN:

Almost all women reported that basic needs, food and shelter, will be the biggest problems when they are back in Afghanistan and many women mentioned that the problems will be especially difficult in the beginning.

Other problems will be lack of money and difficulties for the males to get a job. The women stated that having no hospitals in Afghanistan will raise big problems for their families. A number of women mentioned shortage of water and landlessness, as seriour problems when they would return to Afghanistan.

"Before the war we had nothing in Afghanistan. Now it will be worse."
Refugee woman.

8.16. WAITING FOR AN ORDER TO GO BACK - FROM WHOM?

Spontaneously, more than 85 % of the women expressed that they are waiting for an order from the Government of Pakistan to go back to Afghanistan. Either they expected the Government of Pakistan to force them or to help them to enable their return home.

Less than 30 % stated that they expected an order from Mujahedin and less than 10 % an order from a coming independent Government of Afghanistan. An order from political parties was only mentioned by one woman and an order from group leaders was expected by 9 women.

This can be compared with the results of a Survey on Repatriation carried out by AICF (Action Internationale Contre Le Faim) in September 1989 when one hundred women in the refugee villages Surkhab and Pir Alizai answered the question "Are you waiting for an order to return"? The answers were distributed as follows:

> Out of all women 90 women said they were waiting for an order to go back. Of them 53 expressed great expectations of the Mujahedin fighting in Afghanistan, while 22 only would go back if the Alliance of Seven Parties decided so. 5 women expected an order from the Government of Pakistan and 2 from the group leaders in the camp.

"If the Pakistani Government doesn't help us and doesn't arrange transportation we never go back."
Refugee woman.

8.17. HOW WILL THE DECISION OF GOING BACK BE MADE IN THE FAMILY?

To this question, mainly three kind of answers were given; "men and tribes people" was most common followed by "my husband." After adding all answers, where women consider themselves, together with other family members, as decision makers, we found that 45 % of the women have influence.

"In our house me and my husband will take the decision of going back; outside my husband will decide together with other men."
Refugee women.

9. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY:

9.1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION:

Table 1. Number And Distribution Of Afghan Women By Province Of Origin.

Province	Mohd Kheil		New Saranan		Total:	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Kandahar	51	51.0	3	3.0	54	27.0
Zabu	4	4.0	1	1.0	5	2.5
Helmand	32	32.0	2	2.0	34	17.0
Kandoz	4	4.0	7	7.0	11	5.5
Jozjan	0	0.0	23	23.0	23	11.5
Baghlan	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	0.5
Ghazni	4	4.0	0	0.0	4	2.0
Bamiyan	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Badghis	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	0.5
Parwan	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Balkh	3	3.0	32	32.0	35	17.5
Saripul	0	0.0	19	19.0	19	9.5
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Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 1 shows that in Mohammed Kheil the largest number of the interviewed female refugees come from Kandahar province, followed by those from Helmand. In New Saranan the largest number come from Balkh followed by Jozjan with and Saripul.

CHANGES IN FEMALE ATTITUDES AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING; PREPARING FOR REPATRIATION; A PILOT STUDY IN TWO AFGHAN REFUGEE VILLAGES IN BALUCHISTAN

Gunilla Wingö

1. SUMMARY:

This research is based on interviews with women that reveal their thoughts and their fears about going back to Afghanistan. It describes their wide range of experiences in their flight from Afghanistan and their living conditions now in the camps.

What makes this survey most interesting and useful is that it is based on the statements of the women themselves in the refugee camps and was designed and carried out by women.

Coming to Pakistan meant peace for the women and their families. Peace is the main change most women consider having changed their life for the better in Pakistan. They are longing for their home country but their first condition for going back is that there must be peace.

The women have experienced what a society can offer their family, and especially their children, in terms of health and educational facilities. It is a strong wish from the women that the same facilities should be developed in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

For achieving peace in Pakistan, the women and their families had to leave their homes and to start from the very beginning to build up their material standard step by step. The women now express their worries about to be obliged to start from scratch once more, now in Afghanistan.

The women's worries from a social and material point of view might be more understandable taking in consideration that 42 % of the family members are below the age of 15 years, many of them born in Pakistan.

The women are an important target group to reach with information because half of them consider themselves having an influence on their families' decision of going back.

Information such as this regarding females is of great importance for UNHCR and UNOCA as well as for other UN organizations and NGOs, and should continuously be developed.

Table 2. Number And Distribution Of Afghan Refugee Women By Tribe:

Tribe:	Mohd Kheil: No.	Mohd Kheil: %	New Saranan: No.	New Saranan: %	Total: No.	Total: %
Uzbek	5	5.0	1	1.0	6	3.0
Tajek	2	2.0	0	0.0	2	1.0
Baluch	9	9.0	1	1.0	10	5.0
Hazara	3	3.0	0	0.0	3	1.5
Pashto						
Durrani						
Ishakzai	7	7.0	60	60.0	67	33.5
Achekzai	7	7.0	16	16.0	23	11.5
Noorzai	20	20.0	2	2.0	22	11.0
Others	13	13.0	2	2.0	15	7.5
Ghilzai						
Kakar	6	6.0	8	8.0	14	7.0
Sulaman K	9	9.0	0	0.0	9	4.5
Others	19	19.0	10	10.0	29	14.5
TOTAL:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 2 shows that the Pashtoons dominate among the interviewed women. Out of these, most belong to the Durrani branch while the second largest group come from the Ghilzai branch. The biggest Durrani sub branch is Ishakzai, followed by Ashekzai and Noorzai. In the Ghilzai branch Kakar dominates with. Altogether, there were nine sub branches represented from Durrani while seventeen were represented from Ghilzai.

Table 3. Number And Distribution Of Afghan Refugee Women According To Marital status:

Marital status:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
Unmarried	1	1.0	2	2.0	3	1.5
Married	92	92.0	88	88.0	180	90.0
Widows	7	7.0	10	10.0	17	8.5
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 3 shows that very few women are unmarried, some are widows, but most of the interviewed are married. The figures show no differences between the two refugee camps.

Table 4. Age Distribution Of Afghan Refugee Women:

Age Interval:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
- 25	16	16.0	13	13.0	29	14.5
26 - 35	37	37.0	34	34.0	71	35.5
36 - 45	30	30.0	27	27.0	57	28.5
46 - 55	13	13.0	24	24.0	37	18.5
56 -	4	4.0	2	2.0	6	3.0
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 4 shows that the majority of the refugee women are between 26 to 45 years old and that there are not any remarkable differences between the camps.

Table 5. Distribution According To Length Of Stay In Pakistan:

Years outside Afghanistan:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
- 2	8	8,0	9	9.0	17	8.5
3 - 4	11	11.0	75	75.0	86	43.0
5 - 6	24	24.0	12	12.0	36	18.0
7 - 8	29	29.0	2	2.0	31	15.5
9 -	28	28.0	2	2.0	30	15.0
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 5 confirms the difference between the two villages. New Saranan is a camp for newcomers; three quarters have been outside Afghanistan for only three to four years, while the refugee women in Mohd Kheil are more spread over the ten years.

Table 6. Distribution according to length of stay in refugee villages:

Years in refugee villages:	Mohd Kheil No.	%	New Saranan No.	%	Total: No.	%
- 2	11	11.0	100	100.0	111	55.5
3 - 4	14	14.0	0	0.0	14	7.0
5 - 6	26	26.0	0	0.0	26	13.0
7 - 8	26	26.0	0	0.0	26	13.0
9 -	23	23.0	0	0.0	23	11.5
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 6 confirms the same facts as table 5: The newcomers are placed in New Saranan, while 75 % of the women in Mohammed Kheil have been there five years or more.

Table 7. Family composition - Distribution by nuclear and extended families.

DEFINITIONS:

Nuclear family: Parents or parent living together with their children.

Extended family: Nuclear family together with other relatives living in the same household

Residential Type:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
Nuclear Families:	31	31.0	51	51.0	82	41.0
Extended Families:	69	69.0	49	49.0	118	59.0
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 8. Distribution of family members in nuclear and extended families.

Members:	Mohd Kheil No	New Saranan No.	Total No.
in nuclear families:	237	357	592
in extended families:	822	495	1317
Total:	1057	852	1909

Table 9 Average number of family members in nuclear and extended families:

Average number family members	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.
Nuclear	7.6	7.0
Extended	11.9	10.1
Total	10.6	8.2

Table 7 - 9, Comments: Almost 70 % of the women in Mohammed Kheil are living in extended families, while in New Saranan the spread between nuclear and extended families are almost equal. Due to more extended families in Mohammed Kheil, the number of family members is higher than in New Saranan, 1057 and 852 respectively, which means that the average family size is 10.6 in the former village and 8.2 in the latter one.

Table 10: Number Of Children By Age Intervals:

Age Interval:	Mohd Kheil No.	Mohd Kheil %	New Saranan No.	New Saranan %	Total: No.	Total: %
< 1	23	5.1	17	5.1	40	5.1
1 - 5	150	33.4	100	29.7	250	31.9
6 - 10	177	39.5	127	37.8	304	38.7
11 - 15	99	22.0	92	27.4	191	24.3
Total:	449	100.0	336	100.0	785	100.0

Table 10-A : Number Of Children From Nuclear Families By Age Interval: Reported by 31 women in Mohd Kheil and 51 in New Saranan)

Age Interval	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
< 1	7	4.0	8	4.0	15	4.0
1 - 5	43	27.0	52	26.0	95	27.0
6 - 10	63	40.0	74	37.0	137	38.0
11 - 15	46	29.0	66	33.0	112	31.0
Total:	159	100.0	200	100.0	359	100.0

Table 10 shows that the amount of children in the age intervals 1 - 5 and 6 - 10 differs between Mohammed Kheil and New Saranan. The difference is about 50 children in each group. The 200 women of the survey have 785 children up to age 15 living with them.

Table 11: Births and deaths in interviewed families during the stay in Pakistan

Births:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total No.	%
Males:	134	48.0	49	45.0	183	47.0
Females:	146	52.0	61	55.0	207	53.0
Total:	280	100.0	110	100.0	390	100.0

Deaths:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranen: No.	%	Total: No.	%
Children:	51	52.0	45	63.0	96	56.0
(Defined here as under the age of 15						
Adults:	46	48.0	26	37.0	72	44.0
Total:	97	100.0	71	100.0	168	100.0

Table 11 Number of births and deaths among children in nuclear refugee A families during their stay in Pakistan.

Births:	Moha Kheil No.	Moha Kheil %	New Saranan No.	New Saranan %	Total: No.	Total: %
Males:	31	43.0	17	51.0	48	46.0
Females:	41	57.0	16	49.0	57	54.0
Total:	72	100.0	33	100.0	105	100.0
Deaths:	17		21		38	

Table 11 shows that, in the interviewed families, almost four hundred children were born in Pakistan. More than twice as many of those were born in Mohammad Kheil, due to it being an older refugee camp.

After coming to Pakistan, 168 relatives of the interviewd women have died. Out of these more than half were children. In New Saranen, the percedntage of children was higher.

Table 12: Husbands' Occupation In Afghanistan Compared To Occupation In Pakistan

Occupation:	Afghanistan: No.	Afghanistan: %	Pakistan: No.	Pakistan: %
Mula/Teacher	10	5.0	1	8.0
Shopkeeper/ Other selling:	24	13.0	23	13.0
Farmer/shepherd and landlord:	109	59.0	0	0.0
Daily work:	15	8.0	86	48.0
Other occupations:	16	9.0	20	11.0
No work:	12	6.0	35	20.0
Total:	186	100.0	179	100.0

Table 12: shows that most men in Afghanistan were working with farming or with cattle, while in Pakistan they mostly work as daily laborers. The number of men having no work increased since the flight to Pakistan. The total number in this table is less than 200 due to some widows and some unmarried women.

9.2. Views and Attitudes of Afghan Refugee Women:

Table 13: Experience Of Coming To Camp In Pakistan:

Change... experience:	Mohd Kheil: No.	Mohd Kheil: %	New Saranan: No.	New Saranan: %	Total: No.	Total: %
Much worse:	2	2.0	0	0.0	2	1.0
Worse:	18	18.0	25	25.0	43	21.5
Same:	5	5.0	11	11.0	16	8.0
Better:	39	39.0	40	40.0	79	39.5
Much better:	36	36.0	24	24.0	60	30.0
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 13, Comments: Most women consider the experience of coming to Pakistan as better or much better compared with Afghanistan. The women express different kind of changes as well, positive as negative, which are analyzed in the discussion of findings.

Table 14: Attitudes About Educational Facilities For Children In Camp In Pakistan Compared To The Situation Before In Afghanistan:

Educational situation:	Mohd Kheil: No.	Mohd Kheil: %	New Saranan: No.	New Saranan: %	Total: No.	Total: %
Much Worse:	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Worse:	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	1.0
Same:	18	18.0	25	25.0	43	21.5
Better:	39	39.0	49	49.0	88	44.0
Much better:	28	28.0	21	21.0	49	24.5
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 14: shows that almost three quaerters of those interviewed consider the educational situation for children better or much better in the camp compared with Afghanistan.

Table 15: Attitudes About Health Facilities for children in camp in Pakistan compared to the situation before in Afghanistan.

Health Facilities:	Mohd Kheil: No.	%	New Saranan: No.	%	Total: No.	%
Much Worse:	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Worse:	2	2.0	16	16.0	18	9.0
Same:	5	5.0	9	9.0	14	14.0
Better:	51	51.0	61	61.0	112	56.0
Much better:	40	40.0	12	12.0	52	26.0
No statement:	2	2.0	2	2.0	4	2.0
Total:	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 15: shows that almost all those interviewed in Mohammed Kheil and three quarters of those interviewed in New Saranan consider the health facilities better for children in the camp compared with Afghanistan.

Table 16: Attitudes about Nutrition for children in camp in Pakistan compared with Afghanistan:

Nutritional situation	Mohd Kheil No	%	New Saranan No	%	Total No	%
Much worse	2	2.0	3	3.0	5	2.5
Worse	25	25.0	44	44.0	69	34.5
Same	41	41.0	25	25.0	66	33.0
Better	24	24.0	22	22.0	46	23.0
Much better	6	6.0	4	4.0	10	5.0
No statement	2	2.0	2	2.0	4	2.0
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 16 shows that 27 % of the women in Mohammed Kheil and 47 % in New Saranan consider the nutrition situation for children worse or much worse than in Afghanistan. Totally 28 % stated the nutrition situation for children in camp as better or much better than in Afghanistan.

Table 17 "Social situation" for children in camp in Pakistan compared to the situation before in Afghanistan.

Social situation	Mohd Kheil No	Mohd Kheil %	New Saranan No	New Saranan %	Total No	Total %
Much worse	1	1	0	0.0	1	0.5
Worse	13	13.0	7	7.0	20	10.0
Same	10	10.0	17	17.0	27	13.5
Better	22	22.0	32	32.0	54	27.0
Much better	50	50.0	42	42.0	92	46.0
No statement	4	4.0	2	2.0	6	3.0
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 17 shows that almost 75 % of the women consider the social situation for the children as better or much better in the camp compared to the situation before in Afghanistan.

Table 18 Possibility for refugee women to move around in the camp in Pakistan compared to the situation in Afghanistan.

Possibility to move	Mohd Kheil No	Mohd Kheil %	New Saranan No	New Saranan %	Total No	Total %
Difficult	20	20.0	28	28.0	48	24.0
Same	42	42.0	30	30.0	72	72.0
Easier	38	38.0	42	42.0	80	40.0
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 18 shows that at about 40% of the women consider it easier for women to move around in the camp compared with their situation in Afghanistan.

2. INTRODUCTION:

As a Social Program Officer in UNHCR Sub-Office, Quetta, my work involved approaching women and children in the Afghan refugee villages. It is well-known that the Afghan women can be reached only through other females and, as we were two females working in the social services team, we were in a good position to get to know more about women. Female refugees are often voiceless. If we are to approach the refugee problem in a humanitarian way, then we must recognize that those who appear to be voiceless often have something important to say.

Discussion took place with the Head and Deputy Head of Sub-Office Quetta (UNHCR) and it was requested that Social Service Unit should conduct a social impact survey concerning women. It was considered important to get to know more from the women themselves, as all contacts outside the family went through the males. Furthermore most surveys concern males.

Meanwhile, UNHCR Headquarters requested OCOM in Pakistan, and UNHCR Offices in other countries, to develop studies of refugee women. For this purpose Sub-Office Quetta asked for a consultant from headquarters, while the Social Service Unit would conduct a pilot study in two Afghan refugee villages: New Saranan and Mohammed Kheil.

Since Rädda Barnen (Swedish Save The Children) had made some "Seed Money" available for small projects in Pakistan, some of it was set aside to cover some of the costs of this research

3. GOALS:

The following goals were chosen as the basis of this pilot study:

To obtain information for future planning of programs aimed at Afghan women:

Information is needed about female refugees, about their previous life in Afghanistan, how it compares to their life in refugees' camps, about their opinions, and how they view the main problems they will face when returning home.

To obtain refugee women's opinions:

Opinions are needed about the support they have got so far and how it has affected them and their families.

To get background information:

Background information is needed to use in future planning on Afghan refugee situation.

To involve refugee women:

Refugee women are needed to be more involved in our understanding of the families' needs and perceptions

Table 19 Food available for refugee families in camp in Pakistan compared to the situation before in Afghanistan

Food situation	Mohd Kheil No	Mohd Kheil %	New Saranan No	New Saranan %	Total No	Total %
Much worse	1	1.0	7	7.0	8	4.0
Worse	21	21.0	55	55.0	76	38.0
Same	2	42.0	26	26.0	68	34.0
Better	21	21.0	4	4.0	25	12.5
Much better	15	15.0	8	8.0	23	11.5
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 19 shows that 21 % in Mohammed Kheil and 62 % in New Saranan consider the food-situation worse in the camps compared to the situation before in Afghanistan. 36 % in Mohd Kheil and 12 % in New Saranan stated the food-situation in the camps as better.

Table 20 Change in health after coming to camp in Pakistan compared to the situation in Afghanistan.

Change in health	Mohd Kheil No	Mohd Kheil %	New Saranan No	New Saranan %	Total No	Total %
Much worse	2	2.0	1	1.0	3	1.5
Worse	7	7.0	20	20.0	27	13.5
Same	72	72.0	38	38.0	110	55.0
Better	15	15.0	18	18.0	33	12.5
Much better	4	4.0	23	23.0	27	13.5
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 20 shows that 91 % in Mohammed Kheil and 79 % in New Saranan consider the health of their families as the same, better or much better.

Table 21 VALUE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

Value of relation-tionship	Mohd Kheil No.	%	New Saranan No.	%	Total No.	%
Very much	33	33.0	38	38.0	71	35.5
Much	19	19.0	28	28.0	47	23.5
A little	10	10.0	8	8.0	18	9.0
Not at all	12	12.0	12	12.0	24	12.0
No answer	26	26.0	14	14.0	40	20.0
Total	100	100.0	100	100.0	200	100.0

Table 21 shows that 52 % of the women in Mohammed Kheil and 66 % in New Saranan consider the contacts with local people help the refugees much or very much. 26 % in Mohammed Kheil and 14 % in New Saranan didn't give any answer to this question.

9.3 PROBLEMS/PARTCIPATION FOR THE AFGHAN REFUGEE WOMEN:

In tables 22 to 30 the most common answers have been listed. The answers are analyzed in Discussion of findings.

Table 22 Particular problems in the camps

Art of problem	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
No problems	74	80	154
Men have many probl	7	11	18
Water probl	7	8	15
Corruption probl	6	8	14
Ration probl	9	4	13

Table 23 Priorities for going back to Afghanistan.

Priorities	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
Peace	95	91	186
Housing	60	71	131
Food	53	61	114
Water	46	59	105

Table 24 Are you preparing yourself for returning to Afghanistan?

	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
No preparing	91	93	184
Preparing	9	7	16

Table 25 Why are you not preparing yourself for returning to Afghanistan?

	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
There is no peace	30	47	77
Me and my family does not want to go back	29	15	44
We have all we need here	14	15	29

Table 26 Expected problems during the travelling back to Afghanistan?

Problems	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
Transportation	35	29	64
It will be no problems	21	30	51
Food and water	32	13	45
I don't know	21	24	45
Sickness	16	22	38
Weather-problems	11	9	20
Mines	8	6	14

Table 27 Expected biggest problems when back in Afghanistan?

Problems	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
House/ shelter	89	85	174
Food	81	70	151
No work for men	35	25	60
No hospital	11	14	25
No water	9	9	18

Table 28 Are you waiting for an order to go back to Afghanistan? If so? from whom?

From whom?	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
Government of Pakistan	86	87	174
Mujahedin	29	26	55
Independent government of Afghanistan	7	9	16
Groupleader	3	6	9

Table 29 Why in your family is going to take the decision of going back to Afghanistan?

	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
My husband and other men	64	70	134
Me and other familymembers	42	48	90

Table 30 Do women have influence on the decision to go back or not to Afghanistan?

	Mohd Kheil No.	New Saranan No.	Total No.
Yes	46	55	101
No	46	47	93

10 APPENDIX

10.1 Questionnaire

CHANGES IN FEMALE ATTITUDE AND SOCIAL WELL BEING - PREPARING FOR REPATRIATION

No of interview:.....

Date:................

Camp:................

Years in the camp:...

Years away from Afghanistan:.........

Name:....................

Tribe:..................

Group leader:.............

Province of Origin:...............

Marital status:..........

Family composition:......

Age of children:

Boys:....................

Girls:...................

Births in family in Pakistan:.............

Deaths in Family in Pakistan:.............

Husband's occupation in Afghanistan...........

Husbands occupation in Pakistan..............

Question 1

What do you think is the biggest change in your life after coming from Afghanistan to Pakistan? Approximate according to this scale.

```
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
 much worse   worse      same     better   much better
```

Question 2

A. How did you spend your day in Pakistan?

B. How do you spend your day in refugee camp? Compare.

```
|-----------|----------|------------|
 more work     same      less work
```

Question 3

How has raising children changed in following aspects after coming from Afghanistan?

A. How has school changed? Compare.

```
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
 much worse   worse      same     better   much better
```

B. How have health facilities changed? Compare.

```
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
 much worse   worse      same     better   much better
```

C. How has nutrition changed? Compare.

```
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
 much worse   worse      same     better   much better
```

D. How has social life changed? Compare.

```
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
 much worse   worse      same     better   much better
```

E. How do you think the above mentioned factors in raising children will be back in Afghanistan?

Question 4

A. How is it for females to move around in the camp?

Visiting whom? Going where?

B. How was it in Afghanistan? Compare.

¦----------¦----------¦------------------¦
more easy   same   more difficult

Question 5

A. Which were the sources of getting food in Afghanistan?

B. Who decided, what kind of food to eat?

C. What kind of food did you consume in Afghanistan?

D. What kind of food do you consume now in camp? Compare.

¦----------¦----------¦---------¦---------¦-----------¦
much worse   worse   same   better   much better

E. How do you think it will be when you return to Afghanistan?

Question 6

Are there any changes in your family's health situation since you came here?

¦----------¦----------¦---------¦---------¦-----------¦
much worse   worse   same   better   much better

Children? Women? Men? Elderly?

Question 7

A. What kind of food and shelter assistance are given in your camp?
B. What do you think about that assistance?

Question 8

A. What kind of other assistance are you benefitting from?

B. What do you think about that assistance?

Question 9

A. Are there any particular problems in your camp? If yes, what?

111 B. How do you try to solve it?

C. Have you tried to solve it together in the community? How?

D. Could you have done more? What?

<u>Question 10</u>

A. Do your family have relationship with local families? If so, what kind of relationship? Family? Friendship? Working contacts?

B. How much do you feel that your relationship with local families are helping you and your problems.

¦------------¦---------¦-----------¦-------------¦
very much much a little not at all

<u>Question 11</u>

Which are your three first priorities for going back to Afghanistan?

<u>Question 12</u>

A. Are you actively preparing for your return to Afghanistan? If yes - how?

B. If no - why not?

<u>Question 13</u>

A. When are you going back to Afghanistan?

B. Why just then?

<u>Question 14</u>

What problems will you face during travelling back to Afghanistan?

<u>Question 15</u>

What will be your biggest problem when you are back in Afghanistan?

Question 16

Are you waiting for an order to return to Afghanistan? If yes - from whom?

Question 17

A. Who in your family are going to take the decision of going back to Afghanistan?

B. What will the decision be based on?

C. Do women have any influence on the decision?

Specific statements during the interview:

Specific observations made during the interview:

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS STUDY:

Women make up more than half of the human resources potential for rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan. As it is difficult to get access to the women in Afghanistan and in the camps, they have so far been largely disregarded This is not acceptable, not only for the women, but for the whole country.

This survey added information which assists in realistic program design, from a social point of view in general, and especially for women and children.

In this research, women are seen in the context in which they live, that is in social relationships with men and children, in relation to the physical environment, and as they relate to the effects of war.

5. METHODOLOGY:

This report is based on the pilot study: "Changes in Female Attitudes and Social Well-being; Preparing for Repatriation in Mohammed Kheil and New Saranan, Afghan Refugee villages in Baluchistan."

The selection of two clusters in Mohammed Kheil and New Saranan was done purposely, with the view that the former represents Afghan refugee population from the Southeast of Afghanistan and is considered to be one of the oldest refugee camps, whereas New Saranan has population from the North of Afghanistan, and is a new camp.

Within these two big clusters, further smaller clusters were made, to give equal chances of representation.

A pretest consisting of 25 interviews was made. After making necessary changes in the pretesting questionnaire, random samples within each cluster were selected by picking every tenth house in each cluster.

With the help of four trained females in a survey team and by the participation of the Social Services Unit staff, one hundred interviews were made in each village. Each interview took fifty to sixty minutes and the methodology used was similar to that of in-depth interviews.

The interviews were held either with women individually or, on many occasions, with a focus on one woman surrounded by a group of women who also wanted to be involved in the discussion. The survey team always tried to make the interviews without men present. Still it very seldom happened that males were present. The impression of the survey team was that the men in rare cases tried to encourage the women to speak.

Before the interview started, the women were informed of the purpose of the survey and were promised that nothing they told us should be used against them. Whenever necessary the men, group leaders, husbands and other male relatives, were given the same information

10:2 PROFILES OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE VILLAGES - MOHAMMED KHEIL AND NEW SARANAN.

MOHAMMED KHEIL

Mohammed Kheil was established in February, 1980 during the influx of refugees from Kandahar, Helmand/Kundus and Baghlan/Ghazni. Mohammed Kheil consists of five different camps located in Quetta District approximately 80 km south west of Quetta town. The travelling time is two hours by car from Quetta.

There was a steady increase of Afghan Refugees from 1980 until the end of 1983. Since then most of the new refugees have been shifted over from other areas of Baluchistan by the authorities for security reasons. The present total statistics show about 120,000 formally registered refugees

Different tribes are represented in Mohammed Kheil as Noorzai, Achekzai, Suleman Kheil, Warech, Taraki. There are also groups of Hazara, Uzbek, Tajiks, Baluch and Turkomen.

Almost all people live in katcha (mud wall) houses. The area is arid and stony and many people have started to move away from Mohammed Kheil. Mohammed Kheil is situated less than one hour drive from the Afghan border.

ADMINISTRATION

The Afghan Refugees Organization's administrative office for this area is located in Quetta. Each village has an administrative block. Food and other relief assistance are distributed by the village administrative staff.

WATER SUPPLY

The main water sources are from 5 tube wells and 5 open surface wells distributed through water storage tanks. Each village has storage tanks and several distribution points spread out in different locations of the villages. The water supply has over the year been improved and extended.

HEALTH

There are three BHU and one sub health unit staffed with Medical doctor, Dispenser, Lady health visitor, male and female outreach workers, vaccinator and supporting staff. The health unit also besides curative services carries out programs for immunization, TB and Malaria Control.

EDUCATION

In Mohammed Kheil there are seven primary schools and two lower middle schools funded by UNHCR with approximately 800 students. Subjects taught in these schools are religious studies, mathematics, Pushto and History. The teachers are Afghan Refugees.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING/INCOME GENERATION

Vocational training for male in plumbing, sheet and metal work, domestic electricity, woodwork, wildness farm mechanics and construction has been operated first by GTZ (German Technical Assistance) and later by ILO (International Labor Organization) This project was closed down in December 1989.

INCOME GENERATION

In 1985 equipment and material were given by UNHCR for collective carpet weaving. A carpet/gilim weaving center operated by Small Industries Department from 1980 to the end of 1989 when it was closed down.

EIL (Experimental International Living) has assisted Afghan refugees to raise more than 32,000 trees.

EIL operates an Agricultural Support Center in order to assist refugees engaged in agricultural activities like rearing live-stock, tree nurseries and kitchen gardens.

CRS (Catholic Relief Service) has income generation activities for needy women and disabled men in production of school uniforms, school bags and embroidery.

NEW SARANAN

New Saranan is the newest refugee villages in Baluchistan, which was established in 1987. The village is located 40 km west of Quetta city and situated closely to the south of Quetta - Chaman road/railway line. The upper end of the refugee village toward west is close to the old refugee village Saranan. The travelling time is about one hour by road from Quetta.

The camp was especially established to accommodate mainly some 1400 families of Ishakzai tribe and others. These families had come to Bund Khushdil Khan and Thrata near Pishin town in 1988 from north of Afghanistan. The number of families in Bund Khushdil Khan and Thrata continued to increase to reach 3000 families. The shifting of refugees to this village started in April 1988. Groups of refugees were shifted over in February and September 1989. Still new refugees continue to come to New Saranan.

ADMINISTRATION

The refugee village has one Village Administrator (VA) in charge of the daily administration and assisted by administrative and security staff.

WATER SUPPLY

The refugees are supplied with water from a UNHCR funded scheme consisting of one open tube well, 20.000 pipelines and 20 static

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tanks. Another tube well funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is now operating adjacent to the existing system.

HEALTH SERVICES

There is one Basic Health Unit (BHU) operating in the RV. The BHU has one Medical Officer, one Dispenser, one Lady Health Visitor, one Vaccinator and two Midwives. The medical staff moved during last summer to a UNHCR funded permanent BHU clinic having also a female section.

In early 1988, AICF (Action Internationale Contra La Fame) started a sanitation project which included construction of latrines, improvement of hand dug wells and distribution of sand filters in the village.

EDUCATION

One tented elementary school with one head master and two teachers was established in 1988. One school building was constructed in 1989 and the education is now given to 200 children.

SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

Redd Barna (Save the Children, Norway) started community developing work in the village in January 1990. For the time being the project has training program for girls in sewing and kitchen gardening training for boys.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING/ INCOME GENERATION

EIL (Experimental International Living) have an income generating program for women on embroidery. 150 women are benefitting from the project and the training/ work is carried out in the refugees homes.

EIL started in 1989 to run an Agricultural support center in the village where the seeds, dairy/poultry feed, tools etc. are sold at subsidized rated or cost price.

One of the refugees also recently started a small private carpet center.

and were told that the interviews were a rare occasion for the female to speak up.

The survey was conducted from 15th November, 1989 to 15th January, 1990.

In Mohammed Kheil, twenty interviews were made in each of camps One to Five. In New Saranan, one third of the interviews were made within the given three Blocks, A, B and C.

The interviewing staff was split into two groups, with two members in each group. The interviews were made in Pashto or Pharsi, depending on the mother tongues of the refugees.

Approximately three to five questionnaires were completed daily. A follow-up meeting with the survey team was carried out almost daily, in order to clarify problems without delay.

After completing the 200 questionnaires of the survey, the data were organized statistically so as to abstract all possible information. During the analysis of the tabulated results, different key persons were consulted to give their comments on our statistical conclusions.

During the analysis, it became obvious that the questions regarding the women's experiences from Afghanistan should have been asked separately for the time before the war and for the time after the war.

Finally, a constraint might have occurred, resulting from misunderstandings due to translation and cultural perceptions.

6. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is said and has been written in books and articles that the limitations of women, for instance to move around, have been bigger in the refugee situation compared with the women's previous life in Afghanistan. But whatever outsiders believe about the oppression of women, the women themselves in this survey see that less as a problem.

This study has been carried out at a time when cut backs in food and other relief items are being implemented. Previously the refugees got wheat, sugar, rice, tea, cooking oil and kerosene, but during this period mainly only wheat was given. While the reason for cut backs have to do with donors' perceptions, the women fear this possibly as a way to force them back to an unsafe military situation.

The demographic aspects of this research, even though the sample was very small, indicate that births are greater than deaths. As the sample was small, this is not statistically significant.

This research indicates that of all refugees, children are the most vulnerable and suffer the most.

This survey has shown that it is possible to reach women within a cultural context and that to do so requires many more women both in programme and field work positions.

Women should be members of missions going inside Afghanistan for approaching women to get information to use in designing programs for women in Afghanistan.

All project proposals, regarding both refugees in the camps and people inside Afghanistan, should describe how the programmes benefit and have effects on women.

School and health facilities in Afghanistan need to be more developed. The knowledge that programmes in fact are ongoing might have an impact on the decision to go back.

Even if most refugees might manage on their own to return to Afghanistan there will be vulnerable groups who need arranged transportation.

The Basic Health Units (BHU) in the refugee camps and, if possible, health stations inside Afghanistan should be used as First Aid Stations for people travelling back to Afghanistan. It might be necessary to build up new stations.

For arranged transportation of vulnerable groups, some persons with education in "Primary Health" should participate in the transport, give advice, and assist if necessary.

People travelling far away might need support in terms of stations for receiving food and water.

For a limited period and at least for vulnerable groups, food and material assistance appear to be necessary.

The programs for rehabilitation of agriculture, water systems, infrastructure and house construction must be coordinated with repatriation in order to give work possibilities for returners.

In places where it is possible to gather women (e.g. in BHU and in income generation activities), culturally adopted information regarding ongoing rehabilitation programs inside Afghanistan should be given. Information about plans for repatriation should also be included. This information might cause more motivation to return. One outcome might also be that the rate of vulnerable groups gets lower.

Experts should be involved to develop culturally adapted information programs possible to use on audio tapes and in broad casting.

Female staff in BHU and income generation activities should get special training to follow up the above mentioned programs.

Information to men on different levels in the refugee villages regarding female programs should be given by women.

Programs and projects should be designed in the knowledge that the women's position is not so simple and especially that many of the women consider themselves having influence on the decision of going back to Afghanistan.

The final recommendation is that the research (demonstrates an urgent need to develop ways to reach women.

The following section includes a selected sample of some of the responses from the women.

7. VOICES OF THE WOMEN:

To demonstrate how the women view their situation regarding different aspects of life, the following statements from themselves were written down.

7.1. COMMENTS ABOUT PREVIOUS LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN:

"We lived in caves during revolution time, children crying."

"Six brothers and my father were killed in Afghanistan. Now I have none."

"We had everything but it was not a good life; Men always fighting, had enemies, couldn't stay in the house with us."

"We had many problem in Afghanistan."

"In Afghanistan everything was available."

"Had four sons killed in Afghanistan."

"Since the Russians came, we could not move around."

"In Afghanistan we were independent. Here we are begging. Here is peace. Otherwise it is a hard life here."

7.2. COMMENTS ON ESCAPE TO PAKISTAN:

"My mother and sister died on the road. It was very cold and we could not bury them."

"Seven children died during the flight; frozen to death."

"Our animals died on the way. My husband was shot in a leg."

"It took five months to reach Pakistan. Men came by horses. Women came on foot."

"My two daughters were kidnapped during the flight. I always worry about what happened to them.

"My son went before me and I was told that he was killed. When I arrived it was very nice to meet him again after four months."

"Two children died on the road; no medicine; cold weather."

"My daughter died of cold. Mother-in-law got very sick on the road so we had to stop travelling. It took us five months to go."

"My only son was frozen to death on the way."

"We got very sick on the road. My daughter died after two days in Pakistan."

"We had no problem on the road."

"My husband left us during the escape and joined us after two years."

"In my family, three children were born on the road and many relatives died."

"My son was kidnapped by the Russians on the way. I don't know if he is alive or not."

"We brought the dead bodies with us to the next graveyard. There we buried them. We were afraid of their dead bodies."

"Two children fell off the truck. There were so many people on the truck and we didn't realize when they fell off."

"We came because of our children; we didn't want them to be kidnapped by the Russians."

"Coming from Heaven to Hell. Even if I have nothing in my own country it is better to be there than to be here."

7.3. COMMENTS ON LIFE IN CAMP:

"Thank God there is no problem here. When the men were working in Afghanistan, they fought over everything and killed each other."

"We have a good time in Pakistan: we have fifty sheep, two camels and a house."

"Pakistan gave us a lot of help: house, land, hospital."

"In camp, water didn't come. Our group leader said the pump needs repair. We collected money. Water came for some days, then the same problem. We had to collect money again."

"They say that our group leader is selling the sweet water."

"We spent a lot of money on private doctors. The BHU doesn't help."

"At first when we come we had to beg for food."

"My children were very sick. I was pregnant and very tired. When we arrived in Pakistan my twins died."

"For three or four months we went hungry, then we bought a ration card."

"I bought a ration card from our group leader for 2100 rupees, then I still had to pay for everything."

7.4. COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN:

"One day all we ladies in the camp went to the group leader's house and told him about the salty water. He got very angry."

"Women have no influence. The men treat us like animals."

"I wanted to take the CRS (Catholic Relief Service) Sewing Training Course. The group leader didn't allow me."

"My husband didn't work in Afghanistan. He took all the money and he used to beat me. Now he is working."

"I wanted to get CHW Training Course (Community Health Worker)."
"The houses here are surrounded by walls, so we cannot go to each others houses."

"We never get to know anything from our men."

"My thirteen year old daughter is married."

"I am taking care of eleven children of three dead brothers and sisters-in-law. The brothers and two sisters-in-law were killed on the way. One sister-in-law died during the travelling, since she had delivered a baby."

"I am homesick, always missing our relatives, our friends, always thinking about them and I cry."

"My father died from cold and hunger."
"We don't know when we are going back to Afghanistan, and we don't understand. Men understand these affairs, and I never interfere."

COMMENTS ON GOING BACK TO AFGHANISTAN:

"Four children, two brothers, and my parents died in Afghanistan. Why go back, when all are dead.

"Maybe we will die on our way back.

"If there is peace, we will go back, but how might we believe there will be peace?"

COMMENTS ABOUT BEING BACK AGAIN IN AFGHANISTAN:

"In Afghanistan there are no possibilities for poor people."

"It will be much better in Afghanistan than before. Now there will be good opportunities for work and development and money."

"Education is good, but now it is war. We don't know about planning for the future.

"We have no money to go to Quetta. How can we then go to Afghanistan."

8. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS:

8.1. DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND:

Two hundred women have been interviewed. Out of these, one hundred were from Mohammed Kheil and one hundred from New Saranan. The women from Mohammed Kheil are mainly from Khandahar and the women from New Saranan are from the north of Afghanistan. Through selecting these two villages, we got information from people from different areas of Afghanistan. The women are in general from rural areas.

In this survey almost 90 % of the women are Pashto, and more than twenty tribes are represented. In Mohammed Kheil the women belong to several different tribes while in New Saranan 60 % belong to the Ishak Zai tribe.

The women in Mohammed Kheil have been away from Afghanistan for a longer time, more than half of them for seven years or more and most of them have also stayed in the camp for five or more years New Saranan is a new camp and the women have stayed there not more than two years; Most have come from Afghanistan within the last three to four years.

Most women are married; 8.5 % are widows and only 1,5 % are unmarried.

The majority of the women are between 26 - 45 years of age. The age of the women has usually been estimated, as the women often do not know their age.

The average number of family members in nuclear families in Mohammed Kheil is 7,6 and in New Saranan 7,0. In extended families in Mohammed Kheil is the average number of family members 11,9 and in New Saranan 10,1. The total number of family members is 1909.

Since the arrival to Pakistan, 390 children have been born in nuclear and extended families and during the same period 168 persons have died. Out of the 168 dead persons, 96 were children under the age of 15. That means that in Mohammed Kheil 52 % of the dead persons were children and in New Saranan 63 %

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SWEDISH SAVE THE CHILDREN



CHANGES IN FEMALE ATTITUDES AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING PREPARING FOR REPATRIATION A PILOT STUDY IN TWO AFGHAN REFUGEE VILLAGES IN BALOCHISTAN

6/90

SOCIAL SERVICE UNIT'S SURVEY ON FEMALES;

PREPARING FOR REPATRIATION

"LIFE IS IMPORTANT -- WE CAME TO SAVE OUR LIVES;

WE WANT TO GO BACK -- BUT WITH HONOUR AND SECURITY."

Refugee woman

CHANGES IN FEMALE ATTITUDES

AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING;

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the afghan refugee Women who openly shared their thoughts and experiences with us.

Special thanks to the Baluchistan Health Survey Team, and my Program Assistant, Safia Gul, who made the interviews, and to the Head of UNHCR Sub-Office, Quetta, Dr Michel Gabaudan, my colleagues of UNHCR Sub-Office, Quetta, and to the Country Representative of Rädda Barnen / Swedish Save The Children, Dr Philip Bartle, Peshawar, for their helpful comments on the study findings and analysis.

Finally, a special thanks to my husband, Hans Anderberg, who supported me throughout this work, and helped me to organize the statistics.

Quetta: June, 1990

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